

To the Committee,

I am writing in support of SB 941.

My colleagues and I were diverted from a PTSD conference in Roseburg, Oregon, on May 21, 1998. Our PTSD Clinical Team had been contacted about the shootings at Springfield's Thurston HS and requested to help.

Upon arrival, the pleasant, small town high school was filled with shocked and grieving students and staff. The cafeteria floor, hastily mopped, still showed red streaks of the victim's blood.

We read or hear about gun deaths every day. Whether in a shopping mall, school, neighborhood or home, I picture the reality of innocent's blood and devastated survivors, the emotional devastation and grief of family and friends.

As a licensed mental health practitioner, I know that suicide is an impulsive act, a permanent "solution" to a transient problem. Having to wait even one day for a background check, could save a life

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Each life is precious. Every individual has a contribution to make and if they are lost to needless gun violence, society is the lessor.

Every day that we don't do what has been proven to help in states that have comprehensive background checks, means more loss of life. It is time for the legislature to act.

Thank you for the opportunity to add my thoughts,

Sincerely,  
Patricia Chandler  
Portland, OR